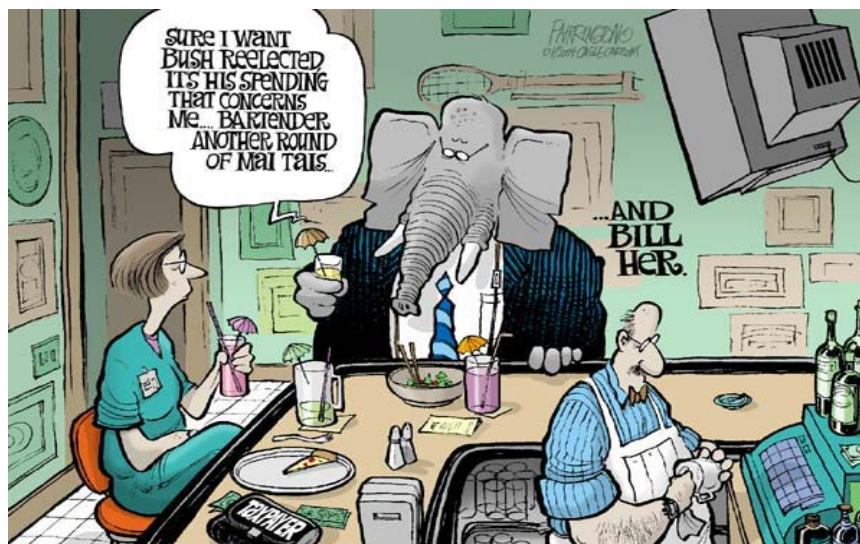




THE PRESIDENT'S "GOTCHA" BUDGET?

Gotcha on Spending. Gotcha on Taxes. Gotcha on Deficits.

- "At the moment, there is no fiscal discipline." – Bob Bixby, executive director, Concord Coalition [Knight-Ridder, 2/02/04]
- "What we have here is nothing short of fiscal disaster. America has gone from a \$280 billion surplus when George W. Bush was inaugurated to \$500 billion annual deficits as far as the eye can see. And those deficits would be \$100 billion higher if the government wasn't raiding the Social Security surpluses now treated not as a lockbox but a candy jar." – Mortimer B. Zuckerman [US News & World Report, 1/31/04]
- "No one should expect significant deficit reduction as a result of austere non-defense discretionary spending limits. The numbers simply do not add up. Non-defense discretionary represents less than one-fifth of the federal budget and freezing this spending reduces the deficit by a marginal amount." – Rep. Bill Young [CQ, 2/02/04]
- "The administration is finding itself suddenly having to defend what up until now it hasn't had to defend, that is soaring deficits, and no real prospect about getting them down anytime soon." – Stan Collender, chief budget analyst, Fleishman-Hillard [Knight-Ridder, 2/02/04]
- "Any cuts made this year in federal programs are certain to translate directly into cuts in programs and services at the local level." – The National League of Cities, [Financial Times, 01/30/04]



- "Progress needs to be made on the deficit, but that isn't likely to happen this year." - David Wyss, chief economist, Standard & Poor's [AP, 2/02/04]
- "We want to move further, we want to move faster with regard to deficit control, with regard to spending control." – House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle (R-IA) [Wired News, 2/02/04]
- "Bush has outspent (former President Bill) Clinton. I hate to say this, I'm sorry folks." – Rush Limbaugh [Radio Show, 1/30/04]
- "He's getting it from all sides. It's amazing how the problems are piling up. The Democrats would say the chickens are coming home to roost." – Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics [UPI, 2/02/04]
- "His biggest worry right now is that he's got an uprising within his own ranks to deal with. Up to this point the Bush election team seems to have believed that you can do anything as long as you don't raise taxes. But now it looks like there is significant resistance on just the sheer levels of spending and increases in spending that have gone on under the Bush administration, and this (the budget) is somewhat of a symbolic response to that." - John Samples, director of the Center for Representative Government at the libertarian Cato Institute [UPI, 2/02/04]
- "The president's new budget proposal is an exercise in election-year cynicism. It calls for cuts in programs President Bush knows Congress will protect and future tax cuts he knows the nation cannot afford. Meanwhile, vital domestic programs, like environmental protection and housing for the poor, wind up as the sacrificial victims." – Editorial [New York Times, 2/03/04]
- "THE BUSH administration's 2005 budget is a masterpiece of disingenuous blame-shifting, dishonest budgeting and irresponsible governing. The administration mildly terms the \$521 billion deficit forecast this year "a legitimate subject of concern," but asserts that it has the problem well in hand: The deficit, it assures the country, will be cut in half by 2009. This isn't credible -- and even if it were, it wouldn't be an adequate answer to a problem far more serious than this administration acknowledges." – Editorial [The Washington Post, 2/03/04]
- "WHILE PRESIDENT Bush is looking into why he got bum intelligence on Iraq, he should check out his sources of fiscal advice as well. From the budget he submitted to Congress yesterday, it appears the president is being scandalously misinformed. He said yesterday that he was looking forward to working with appropriators in Congress to reduce the \$521 billion budget deficit by half in five years. But somebody must be pulling his leg." – Editorial [The Baltimore Sun, 2/03/04]

